



**Human Rights Commission
Agenda
Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Kirkwood City Hall
Main Level Conference Room
139 S. Kirkwood Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

- I. Call to Order – Amanda Sher, Chair
- II. Roll Call – Judy Moticka, Secretary
- III. Approval of Minutes (November 12, 2019)
- IV. Visitor Introductions and Comments
- V. Vote on Essay Contest Topics
- VI. City Attorney John Hessel – Sunshine Law
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. Adjourn

Staff Liaison: Russ Hawes Phone: 314-822-5803 Email:

hawesrb@kirkwoodmo.org

Chair: Amanda Sher

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KIRKWOOD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes

November 12, 2019

6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Amanda Sher.

Present

Verneda Carrier
Judy Moticka, Secretary
Geoff Morrison
Amanda Sher, Chair
Ronda Wallace
Paul Ward
William Winter

Absent

Bob Boyd, Vice Chair
Josh Lewis

Council Liaison

Maggie Duwe

Staff Liaison

Russ Hawes

Other

Kathie Valentine, City of Kirkwood

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Judy Moticka with attendance reflected above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Paul Ward and seconded by William Winter to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

City Council Liaison Comments

Report given later in the meeting.

Chief Administration Officer Comments

None.

Chair Remarks

- Commissioners were asked to e-mail Amanda Sher, and also Judy Moticka, the items listed on the Table of Contents in their KHRC binder. It is the intention going forward to ensure binders are uniform.
- The KHRC roster was circulated at the meeting with Commissioners being asked to review their contact information.
- KHRC terms will be added to the January meeting agenda.
- Commissioners should refrain from holding discussions via e-mail until after the December meeting at which time City Attorney John Hessel will attend and provide training on the Sunshine Law.

Gary Baldrige, Kirkwood Police Department

Gary Baldrige entered the meeting and spoke regarding the No Shave November program at the Kirkwood Police Department. Officers making a \$30 donation towards Shop with a Cop are allowed to participate. A local business owner is matching donations made by the officers. The department, along with Youth in Action (Keith Rawlings), will be holding the Shop with a Cop event at Wal-Mart again this year and it is hoped it will be an annual tradition. Every child who is selected to participate will receive the same dollar amount to spend at the store.

Strategic Plan Reports

B.1 – Members of the Kirkwood High School Coalition and the Kirkwood Gay Straight Alliance had attended the October meeting upon the invitation of Geoff Morrison. William Winter provided information on the ongoing MNIA membership drive which runs through the end of the year.

Council Member Duwe entered the meeting.

B.4 – Thirteen entries were submitted this year for the Art Exhibit. Commissioners had previously approved that \$50 from their budget be used to purchase gift cards from Michael's which were then given to students that participated. Kirkwood Public Library staff provided gift cards as well. Judy Moticka intends to e-mail essay topics from the few years to Commissioners. Commissioners were asked to e-mail their proposed essay topics to Judy Moticka. A list of the proposed topics will then be included in the December meeting packet. The press release regarding the essay contest normally is circulated in January.

Meeting Updates

Judy Moticka informed the Commission that she, Geoff Morrison and Ronda Wallace had set up a meeting with Dr. Condon of the Kirkwood School District later that week. There was nothing to report regarding a Task Force on Equity meeting (discussion had been tabled at the previous meeting).

Maggie Duwe, Complete Streets

Council Member Maggie Duwe offered, if desired by the Commission, to provide information on Complete Streets at an upcoming meeting. There was discussion regarding an e-mail received by Commissioners regarding Complete Streets and Vision Zero. Russ Hawes spoke regarding ongoing sidewalk improvements, grants received, etc. Paul Ward noted that the signage for sidewalk activity needs improvement. After discussion, it was suggested that the Complete Streets topic be added to the January agenda with Council Member Duwe speaking on the subject.

Presentation, David Bennett

David Bennett had been invited to the meeting to give Commissioners an introduction to the book "Community" by Peter Block. He provided background information on the Mediation Agreement and the reformation of the KHRC. During the discussion he suggested that Commissioners:

- Examine how the KHRC can become more productive.
- Look at how they are representing community needs.
- Ask questions that have not been previously considered.
- Think about "what does here look like" and "what does there look like".
- Determine how to get from "here" to "there".

During the meeting Commissioners were asked to speak on gifts they bring to the table and why they wanted to be part of the Commission.

Ronda Wallace – Devastated by lack of change in the community, an offensive interaction between herself and a police officer, and her work in Meacham Park.

William Winter – In his nature to have empathy, he listens to what someone is really saying and isn't afraid to talk about it. He also questions things.

Geoff Morrison – Working as a juvenile officer for most of his career he feels he has a good handle of what's going on in Kirkwood. He also has a range of experiences that most people do not have.

Verneda Carrier – As a facilitator for Kirkwood for Understanding and Healing in the aftermath of the city hall shootings, she heard stories about differences. She also has the gift of time and wanted to know if anything has changed.

Paul Ward – Noted that he has witnessed pain in various ways and that service comes first in his family.

Judy Moticka – As an extension of being a teacher and her work with CASA, she initially joined as it seemed the right thing to do, but realized it is a lot more than that. She works to speak for those that can't speak. She does not back down or give up, and she is passionate and determined.

Amanda Sher – Caring about others makes up the fabric of her soul. She has empathy and is persistent.

The offsite meeting for the “Community” by Peter Block book discussion was tentatively scheduled on February 8 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Robert Rules of Order

A synopsis of Roberts Rules of Order had been included in the meeting packet. There was discussion on “Putting the Question to Members” (Chair asking if they were ready to vote on a question and if there was no more discussion a motion should be made.) An example was given with Chair Amanda Sher asking if Commissioners were in agreement to work on the Strategic Plan, after the book discussion in February, with the intent to simplify the plan. All in favor, motion carried.

Other

- Judy Moticka spoke regarding a Poverty Simulation Exercise she has recently attended at the Kirkwood School District.
- Geoff Morrison and Amanda Sher had met with Chief Murphy with discussion being held on vagrants. It was suggested that instead of giving money to a vagrant that it be given to a not-for-profit instead who could then use the money to provide services.
- Paul Ward spoke regarding a house that had been condemned and the need to find a way to assist people transition to new housing.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the KHRC is scheduled to be held on December 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., Kirkwood City Hall, Main Level Conference Room. Training on the Sunshine Law will be provided by City Attorney John Hessel. Commissioners were asked to read the KHRC ordinance prior to the December meeting.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Geoff Morrison and seconded by Paul Ward to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Judy Moticka, Secretary